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PART IV

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

National Institute of Education

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

[4110-39]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

National Institute of Education

[45 CFR Part 1490]

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Establishment of Requirements, Procedures, and Funding Criteria

AGENCY: National Institute of Education (NIE), Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Director proposes the adoption of new regulations that will establish the requirements, procedures, and funding criteria for an Educational Equity Research Grants Program. The results of the knowledge gained from this research should enable practitioners and decision makers to make the educational system more effective for all American students and adults, especially for those who (1) are participating in the process of school desegregation; (2) have limited or no knowledge of English; (3) have not received equal educational opportunities due to ethnic or racial minority membership; (4) are restricted by sex-role stereotypes.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 8, 1978.

ADDRESS: Comments should be sent to the Regulations Officer, Office of Administration and Management, National Institute of Education, Room 639-B, 1200 19th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20208.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Martin O. Milrod, Plans and Operations, Educational Equity Group, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208, 202-254-5170.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a priority research area of the Institute, the Educational Equity Program focuses on educational problems faced at all levels by substantial numbers of children and adults who are not well served by the nation's public schools. NIE plans to sponsor annual research grants competitions in this area.

A great deal of consultation with scholars, educational leaders, teachers, special-interest organizations, researchers, and other Federal agency staffs has been, and will continue to be, undertaken in reviewing the plans and proposed plans of the Educational Equity Grants Program. The Director will consider those research and development projects that will produce further knowledge toward achieving the goal of educational equity involving (1) educational equity theories; (2) desegregation; (3) multicultural/bilingual education; (4) barriers to women's educational equity.

It is anticipated that approximately $1 million in FY 1978 will be available for grants in this program with about 40-50 awards to be made in an average award range of $20,000 to $25,000. Peer review of grant proposals will be made, including non-NIE reviewers at the Director's discretion. The Director reserves the right to fund only fully qualified proposals within the financial resources and staff support capabilities of the Institute. Nothing in this notice, subsequent notices of closing dates, or program announcements should be construed as committing NIE to award any specified total amount or to make awards in all research areas.

General Provisions of the NIE for Research and Development Grants are published at 45 CFR Parts 1400-1424. Section 1400.2(b) provides that the General Provisions may be supplemented by special substantive and procedural rules and policies for particular grants programs. This notice of proposed rulemaking is issued in accordance with that provision.

All comments received in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the office of the Regulations Officer between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Educational Equity Group, National Institute of Education, 1200 19th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20208.

NOTE.—The National Institute of Education has determined that this document does not contain a major proposal requiring preparation of an Inflation Impact Statement under Executive Order 11821 and OMB Circular A-107.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 13.950, Education Research and Development.)

Dated: February 10, 1978.

PATRICIA ALBJERG GRAHAM,
Director, National Institute of Education.

Approved: March 29, 1978.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.,
Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended by adding to Subchapter B of Chapter XIV, a new Part 1490 reading as follows:

PART 1490—EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Sec.
1490.1 Scope.
1490.2 Purpose.
1490.3 [Reserved]
1490.4 Applicant eligibility.
1490.5 Eligible projects.
1490.6 Ineligible projects.
1490.7 Application requirements.
1490.8 Review of applications.
1490.9 Project duration.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 405, General Education Provisions Act, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221e).

§ 1490.1 Scope.

(a) This part establishes procedures, substantive requirements, and criteria governing the submission and review of applications for funds under the Educational Equity Research Grants Program.

(b) Each grant under this program is subject to applicable provisions of Subchapter A of this chapter (General Provisions for National Institute of Education (NIE) grants relating to fiscal, administrative, and other matters) (45 CFR Parts 1400-1424), except to the extent that such provisions are inconsistent with, or expressly made inapplicable by, the provisions of this part.

§ 1490.2 Purpose.

The purpose of the Educational Equity Research Grants Program is to further the goal of educational equity by supporting research and development studies in the substantive areas described in § 1490.5.

It is intended that each award will produce knowledge to help determine how every person can best achieve an education of high quality regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or social class.

§ 1490.3 [Reserved]

§ 1490.4 Applicant eligibility.

(a) Colleges, universities, State and local educational agencies, other public or private agencies, organizations and groups, and individuals are eligible to apply.

(b) Applications from for-profit organizations must be submitted in accordance with criteria specified in this part and in Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Procurement Regulations, Subpart 3-4.52 (41 CFR Part 3-4), and, if successful, are awarded contracts rather than grants.

§ 1490.5 Eligible projects.

(a) *Eligible research and development areas.* An application under this part must propose research or development in no more than one of the following substantives areas:

(1) *Educational equity theories.* This area includes research to develop better educational opportunity theories (including different definitions of equity and ways in which they are applied and with what results). These theories foster the kinds of analyses

leading to public policies aimed at reducing the barriers faced by women and minorities in achieving equality of educational opportunity.

(2) *Desegregation.* This area includes any aspect of desegregation efforts, such as exemplary methods of educating students in desegregated settings.

(3) *Multicultural/bilingual education.* This area includes:

(i) Educational problems of students (A) who do not speak English, or have limited English speaking ability; (B) who speak non-standard English; or (C) whose culture differs significantly from the majority of students in the United States, or

(ii) How all children may improve their educational opportunities through multicultural/bilingual education.

(4) *Barriers to women's educational equity.* This area includes any aspect of educational research concerning barriers to educational equity for women, such as, the problems related to sex-role stereotyping and discrimination, the special problems minority women face in obtaining equal educational opportunities and leadership positions, and the particular social and educational processes contributing to inequities and ways to eliminate such problems.

(b) *Eligible research processes.* Projects that involve research or development in one of the selected areas described in paragraph (a) of this section may be carried out using any research or development process other than those specified in § 1490.6.

(c) *Selection of areas to be funded.* In the announcement of a closing date for each research grants competition conducted under this program, the director shall indicate which of the areas described in paragraph (a) of this section will be included in that competition.

§ 1490.6 Ineligible projects.

A project whose primary purpose is the operation, development or demonstration of specific programs or materials is not eligible for support under this part. Examples of ineligible projects include:

(a) Operation of an educational program;

(b) Improvement of an educational program through the implementation of a new or improved instructional, administrative, or managerial procedure, technique, material, training, or piece of equipment;

(c) Course development through the production of a new curriculum, or the improvement of an existing curriculum, including the preparation of new instructional material or the modification of instructional material already in existence;

(d) Development or adaptation in an operational setting of any new or improved instructional, administrative, or managerial procedure, technique, material, training, or piece of equipment;

(e) A demonstration project which shows, exhibits, describes, or explains to others, either in person or through various other communication media, the procedure, technique, and/or material which must be employed in the execution of a new or modified instructional task, educational program, or administrative or management process.

§ 1490.7 Application requirements.

An applicant shall submit an application in the form and in such detail as the Director shall require.

§ 1490.8 Review of applications.

(a) *Substantive areas.* In each research grants competition announced under this program, each application will be evaluated in competition with other applications submitted in the same substantive area. The Director will seek to distribute awards equitably among the substantive areas selected in accordance with § 1490.5(c).

(b) *Criteria for evaluation.* Evaluation of applications will be based upon the following criteria:

(1) Evidence of sensitivity to and awareness of minority and women's concerns as shown by efforts to provide equal employment opportunities, or other exemplary projects.

(2) Significance of the proposal to educational equity and the likelihood of significantly increasing the knowledge base if the project is successful.

(3) Technical quality of the proposal, based upon:

(i) The quality of the research design, methodology, and where appropriate, instrumentation;

(ii) The extent to which the proposal exhibits thorough knowledge of pertinent previous work; and

(iii) The quality of the research evaluation design and the dissemination plan.

(4) Organizational and staff qualifications, based upon:

(i) The experience, previous research, and background of the principal investigator(s);

(ii) The adequacy of facilities and arrangements available for the project, including evidence of access to necessary organizations, groups, and individuals for study or research purposes; and

(iii) The willingness of study populations to participate in the research proposal, as appropriate.

(5) Probability of successful completion of the project, based upon:

(i) The overall balance of tasks to be performed and the adequacy of resources to perform these tasks, including budgetary, personnel, and design considerations;

(ii) The estimated cost of the project in relationship to the anticipated results.

(c) *Inapplicable criteria.* Evaluation criteria set forth in § 1403.10 of this chapter shall not apply to applications submitted under this part.

§ 1490.9 Project duration.

Funded projects normally will not exceed 12 months in duration.

[FR Doc. 78-9164 Filed 4-5-78; 8:45 am]

[4110-39]

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

National Institute of Education

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority contained in section 405 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1221e, applications are being accepted for grants under the Educational Equity Research Grants Program. An individual, a college, university, State department of education, local educational agency, other public or private agency, organization or group, or any combination of these is an eligible applicant. Projects will be considered in the education areas of educational equity theories, desegregation, multicultural/bilingual, and women's research. Project awards may be for up to a twelve (12) month period of performance.

The program has a funding allocation of $1.0 million in fiscal year 1978. It is expected that there will be about 40-50 project awards.

Closing date: May 31, 1978.

A. *Applications sent by mail.* An application sent by mail should be addressed as follows: National Institute of Education, Proposal Clearinghouse, Washington, D.C. 20208, Attention: NIE PA 780001. An application sent by mail will be considered to be received on time by the Clearinghouse if:

(1) It is received at the Clearinghouse by 5 p.m., May 31, 1978; or

(2) The application was sent by registered or certified mail not later than 5 p.m. on May 24, 1978, as evidenced by the U.S. Postal Service postmark on the wrapper or envelope or on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service.

B. *Hand-delivered applications.* An application to be hand-delivered must be brought to the Proposal Clearinghouse, Room 708, 1832 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. Hand-delivered applications will be accepted daily between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Washington, D.C. time, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays. Hand-delivered applications will not be accepted after 5 p.m. on the closing date May 31, 1978. A receipt will be issued upon acceptance of the application package.

C. *Application forms and program information.* Program announcements with application materials may be obtained from the Educational Equity Group, National Institute of Education, Room 833, 1200 19th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20208, telephone 202-254-5170.

D. *Applicable regulations.* The regulations applicable to this Program include the National Institute of Education General Provisions Regulations (45 CFR Subchapter A Part 1400) published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on November 4, 1974, 39 FR 38992, and regulations for the Educational Equity Research Grants Program which are published in proposed form in this issue of the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 13.950, Educational Research and Development.)

Dated: Feburary 14, 1978.

PATRICIA ALBJERG GRAHAM,
Director, National Institute of Education.

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